

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04437 201144Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 EAE-00
SSO-00 AS-01 /034 W
-----010456 201208Z /43
O 201108Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6781
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, IS, TW, US
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD ISRAELI OWNED VESSEL

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 3601, (B) STATE 141452, (C) TAIPEI 3632

1. WE HAVE INFORMED MFA DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS (HORAM)
OF THE EFFORTS MADE IN TAIPEI BY AMBASSADOR UNGER TO
OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THE REFUGEES FROM THE "YUVALI"
TO BE ACCEPTED IN TAIWAN. HORAM SAID ISRAEL VERY MUCH
APPRECIATES U.S. ASSISTANCE IN TRYING TO FIND A
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

2. HORAM WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE
NEXT STEPS IF TAIWAN REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEES.
THE VESSEL WILL BE DUE IN YOKOHAMA ON OR ABOUT JUNE 23
AND THE PROBLEM MUST BE SETTLED BEFORE THE "YUVALI"
DEPARTS FROM JAPAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE CONSULT WITH
THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF
THE REFUGEES BEING ACCEPTED TEMPORARILY IN THAT
COUNTRY AND THAT WE CONSIDER A GUARANTEE TO THE
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES REGARDING THE
FINAL COUNTRY OF ASYLUM. HE SAID THAT THE
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ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET MADE AN APPROACH
TO THE JAPANESE. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE
VESSEL DEPARTS FROM YOKOHAMA FOR WEST AFRICA IT
WILL BE AT SEA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DURING MONSOON
WEATHER AND WILL SIMPLY BE UNABLE TO CARRY THE
ADDITIONAL 66 PERSONS.

3. THE REFUGEES AND THEIR RESCUE BY THE "YUVALI"
HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN ISRAELI
MEDIA. LOCAL PAPERS REPORTED JUNE 20 A CAMPAIGN
BEING CONDUCTED BY ABIE NATHAN AND THIS VOICE OF
PEACE TO RAISE FUNDS TO UNDERWRITE THE EXPENSES
OF BRINGING THE REFUGEES TO ISRAEL. ACCORDING
TO AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY NATHAN, PLANS ARE UNDER
CONSIDERATION TO FLY THE REFUGEES DIRECTLY TO
ISRAEL AND TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR THEM HORAM
SAID THAT NATHAN HAS NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE
MFA REGARDING HIS PLANS.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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